(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to do away with the amount of insurance given to passengers or to their families affected by unprecedented accidents during rail travel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the provisions for the amount given to rail passengers or to their family members affected by unprecedented accidents during rail travel; and

(d) the amount given during the last three years on this account?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Safety of passengers is the topmost priority of Railways. Despite all precautions and best efforts, whenever accidents take place causing injury/death of passengers, it is the responsibility of the Indian Railways under the Railways Act, 1989 to pay the compensation as decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(c) An amount of Rs.40.82 crore has been provided under the head 'Accident Compensation' in Budget Estimates 2009-10.

(d) An amount of Rs.8.41 crore has been paid as compensation for victims of train accidents during the last three years.

Railway projects in Gujarat

*237. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal in February, 2008 regarding providing facility of double stack container for Kandla-Bhiladi-Samdari-Jodhpur-Bhatinda railway line;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether her Ministry is considering to convert the route from Kandla to Palampur as part of Dedicated Freight Corridor between Delhi and Mumbai as proposed by Government;

(d) whether in view of development of ports in Gujarat, Government is planning to run special container train connections to its ports; and

(e) if so, by when Government proposes to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat.

(c) Kandla - Palanpur section is not a part of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. However, this section is one of the identified feeder routes to Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.

(d) and (e) It is the stated policy of Railways to provide rail connectivity to ports. Many such projects are under implementation through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Depending upon the traffic, container train operators are running regular container train services to major ports, such as Pipavav, Mundra and Kandla ports in Gujarat.